WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Founded December 19, 1857 SEPTEMBER 1977

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

After 120 years, our Historical Museum is off and running. An overwhelming majority of the membership who voted on June 23rd approved the Barton Power House site.

It is the culmination of a great many hours of work on the part of our General Museum Committee, and they are to be commended for bringing this long and trying task to a successful conclusion.

Now that we have a site, interest is snowballing. Many people are calling to offer their services, and to tell us that they want to be a part of it. It is most gratifying, and we welcome everyone who wishes to participate.

Bob Reiff, chairman of our finance committee, is exploring available private, State and Federal grants for the building and operating of our museum. Bob Warner of the Bentley Library, Bret Walker of the U of M Art Museum and Frank Wilhelme, Director of the Historical Society of Michigan, are lending us their expertise and we feel we have the best authorities in Michigan on our team. In addition to grants, we anticipate a full scale fund drive in the not too distant future.

David Osler has been commissioned to build a scale model of our museum, including the existing Power House and all future buildings. This model will be used for obtaining grants and our general fund drive.

All systems are go—we will keep you posted as the work proceeds.

Thomas F. Lacy
President

SOCIETY LEASES BARTON POWERHOUSE, BUILT 1912, FOR MUSEUM IF ALL DETAILS CAN BE WORKED OUT

The Barton Dam and Powerhouse on the Huron River may become an "exciting and unique" Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum if important details can be worked out.

The Society voted to proceed toward the long-sought goal of a museum at a special membership meeting June 23, following a spirited discussion. Access to the site is a primary question to be resolved.

Museum Committee Chairman Hazel Proctor, Architect David Osler and Attorney John Laird presented the proposed lease with the City of Ann Arbor and answered questions raised before and during the meeting.

Osler envisions the powerhouse as part of an exciting future building on a unique site.

Both Laird and Osler were confident from preliminary inquiries that the questions and objections can be satisfactorily resolved. Laird advised signing the lease because it allows withdrawal if access and such cannot be worked out.

The membership voted to go ahead and a renewable 50-year lease was signed June 30 in the City Hall offices of Mayor Albert Wheeler.

The lease requires repair of the powerhouse within three years to make it weather tight. Osler estimates the cost of that at $60,000 to $70,000.

He believes only the main floor, about 2,800 square feet, is readily usable without building an expensive elevator. He showed preliminary drawings of a proposed 9,500 square foot addition which could be expanded up to 12,000 square feet.

The committee believes considerable funding for building and operation may be available from various government and foundation grants and that funds can be successfully raised in the community.

After the vote Mrs. Proctor announced the first $1,000 donation to the museum fund from the family of the late Katherine Groomes. Mrs. Groomes was a long time member and secretary.

The powerhouse is presently accessible by road only from Barton Shore Drive which the Barton Hills Development Corporation considers a private road.

The powerhouse and dam was built in 1912 by the Eastern Michigan Edison Company, now Detroit Edison. The Barton Hills residential area was developed on adjacent land the company owned.

In recent years the city bought the Edison river properties, no longer used to make power, and received the company's access rights which are assigned to the society in the lease. However the city does not warrant that that is "effective legal access."

A title search is required and it could be necessary to build a road along the railroad track from old Whitmore Lake Road. The city plans a park and access to the site across the railroad track but it is uncertain when that might be done.

The vote was 48 "yes" to 40 "no." Proxy votes added 69 "yes" and 28 "no" votes for totals of 117 "yes" and 68 "no."

GREEK REVIVAL IN ADOBE? SI!

Here in Washtenaw County, far from their accustomed locale in the arid American Southwest, are several old adobe homes. They are not Spanish-style haciendas, however, but Greek Revival in style and not readily recognizable as adobe under their stucco finish.

Stuart Thayer, curator of WCHS collections, discovered them during a survey of historic buildings. He presented a slide-illustrated talk about them at the May meeting.

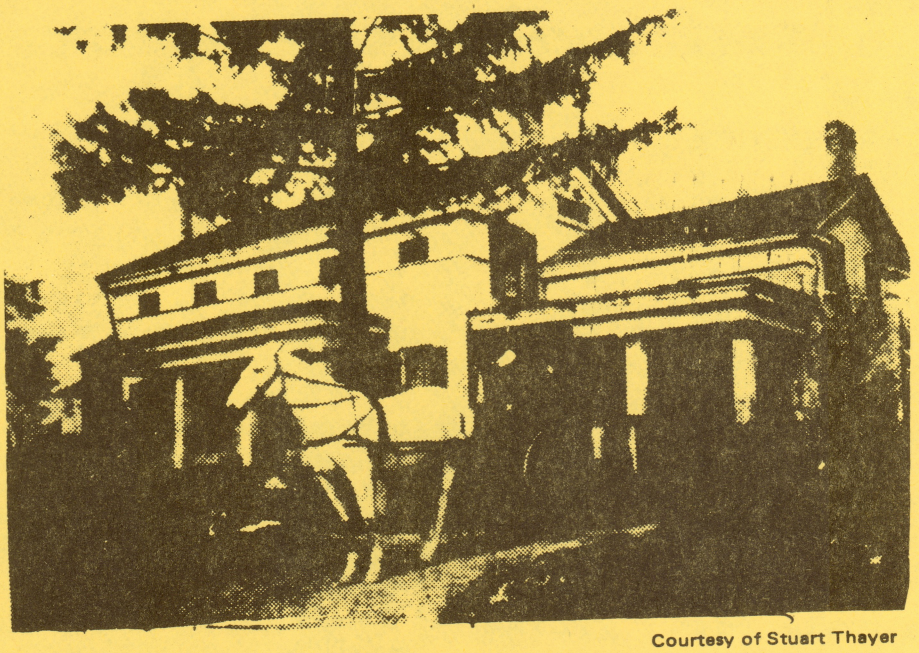
Upon finding several very similar adobe houses, he investigated and found they were all believed to be the product of Stephen Mills, an early local builder. Mills is also reputed to be the builder of the Cobblestone Farm house and the Orrin White cobblestone house on Fuller Road.

Mills was born in 1809 in the Finger Lakes region of New York. He first came to Michigan in 1833 and bought land near Manchester which he then traded for land in Sections 6 and 7 in Pittsfield township, Thayer said. Before settling here, however, Mills returned to New York to learn the construction business. He returned to Washtenaw County in 1836 at age 25.

Meanwhile, his father Daniel Mills came and settled in Section 7 of Pittsfield in 1835. His farm was across the road from the present Pittsfield Union Grange.

In 1839, Stephen married Clemmea McKnight who had come to Michigan as a child with her grandparents, the DePues. David and Harriet Mills DePue lived on the next farm south of Daniel Mills. Clemmea was born in New York state in 1820.

The couple established their home just north of his father's farm, so at one time the family owned three farms in a row on the west side of Ann Arbor-Saline Road in the vicinity of Lohr and Waters Roads. Much of the area is now taken up by the cloverleaf exit for I-94, he noted.



Courtesy of Stuart Thayer

MILLS'S OWN ADOBE 'HACIENDA'
It once stood on Saline-Ann Arbor Road in middle of present I-94 interchange.

While the couple began their married life in a log cabin, Mills built a Greek-revival adobe home of their own in 1845. It was at 2824 Saline Road right at the top of the hill where the highway interchange is now. Torn down in 1970, it was typical of Greek Revival homes of southeastern Michigan of the 1840's.

The mud for the bricks was dug on the property, pounded into wooden forms and allowed to sun dry. The bricks were about half the size of modern cement blocks, he said, being perhaps four inches thick and five by eight inches in size.

Since they contained no binder, only the baking held them together. Our sources tell us about old bricks being thrown outdoors during remodeling and being dissolved by rain, he continued.

The outer walls of Mills's adobe houses were of two thicknesses of brick with airspace between. Stucco was applied to the outside and plaster to the inside. Interior walls were one brick thick and, apparently in most of Mills's buildings, rose from the basement straight to the roof, thus configuration of rooms was the same on each floor.

As was then customary, Mills would incise lines on the stucco to make it appear the house was built of stone.

"We do not know the order in which the houses were built. We have dates for only two. Worse, we do not have any absolute proof that he built any of them. We're relying on secondary sources, family tradition being perhaps the most solid evidence that we have," he said.

There are two Mills houses on the Robert Tefft property at 1880 Textile Road in Pittsfield township, a tenant house and a main house. The tenant house was built first and occupied by the owner, Ira Hurd, until the main house was built.

The pit from which mud was taken for the bricks is still visible on the property.

At the time Mills built the

adobe houses, commercial brick was not available west of Ypsilanti.

Some years ago water got between the walls of the Tefft house and a corner of the house collapsed. It was repaired with cement blocks and stucco.

The McCollum house right on the corner of Wagner and Saline Roads was mentioned more than any other by our sources as having been built by Mills, Thayer noted. Mrs. McCollum was Mills's aunt.

It's a typical Greek Revival style house with interrupted pediment and small windows with grilles over them, he noted. "I assume at one time there may have been a little Greek Revival style porch on the front."

Courtesy of Stuart Thayer

STEPHEN MILLS

It has commonly happened with Greek Revival style houses in this area that small porches have been replaced by large ones and siding added, he said.

A Mills house stood on Scio Church Road near Greenview Drive. The Ann Arbor Board of Education tore it down after they obtained the property for Pioneer High School.

Thayer thinks the adobe John Burg residence at 9180 Saline-Milan Road, just east of Saline, looks much today as it must have when it was built, except the porch has been modernized.

The Shenk house, 3780 State Road, just north of Ellsworth and across from Industrial Park, is now the most likely of Mills's houses to be demolished. It lies in the path of commercial development, he noted, and is in bad repair. Some of the adobe brick is exposed by missing stucco.

The only link with Mills of the house at 9575 Austin Road, just west of Bridgewater, is that the owner advised one of our sources that the house is adobe brick and stucco under its siding, Thayer said.

Thayer did not show a picture of the Hartman residence at 1621 Textile Road because "it was so brutally remodeled I didn't want you to see it." But underneath its siding and aluminum and enlarged windows it's the mud brick and stucco of a Mills-built house. It's across the road from the Tefft house."

"There is rumor and there are statements from the Mills family that the Campbell-Ticknor house on Packard Road and the Orrin White house on Fuller Road were built by Stephen Mills but, to date, not a shred of contemporary evidence connects them," Thayer said.

However, that kind of cobblestone construction is plentiful in the Finger Lakes region from which Mills came and there are enough examples in Washtenaw county to indicate local expertise in their construction. Just as with the mud brick the materials were readily at hand.

"If clay bricks had been used for interior walls in the Ticknor and White houses, we would feel comfortable in assigning them to Mills but that is not the case."

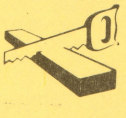
We know he constructed the Mills School, as it originally stood, at the corner of Lohr and Saline Roads. "The commerical brick school once had a very attractive Greek Revival style porch," Thayer said. "I haven't seen a porch like that on any other schoolhouse in the county though some might have had them."

Now owned by the Ann Arbor Board of Education, it has been remodeled almost out of its original form. Mills donated the land for the school and boarded the teacher who taught there.

Family tradition also links the Lohr house at 4448 Lohr Road to Mills. "It's so far from his accustomed style that we think it unlikely that he is responsible for it. It is however a fine example of a Greek Revival with a later Italianate overlay, now an uncommon mixture here."

The Campbell-Ticknor house was built in 1844 and his own house in 1845. He was active in building here from 1836 to 1865 when he retired and devoted himself to fruit farming. He died in 1896. His wife died three years later.

One of his seven sons, Charlie, inherited the homestead because, as his daughter expressed it, "He stayed home and worked the farm." Charlie was one of the first farmers in the area to bottle milk for sale. Charlie had two daughters, Flora Mae and Clemma. Flora Mae and her husband, Vernor McNitt sold the land to the highway department. Clemma's husband, Thomas Biddle of Saline operated a bookstore in Ann Arbor for years. Mrs. Biddle, who now lives in Ann Arbor, helped put this history together along with Mary and George Campbell, Nan Hodges and the late Bess Tefft. Also of assistance was a letter from Myron Cook, a great grandnephew of Mills. Mrs. Hodges lives in the Orrin White house.



TOPIC IS 'LAND SURVEYS'

Ralph Muncy will speak on "Land Surveys and Records" at the September meeting of the Genealogy Section at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, September 25, at Washtenaw Community College. A help session will begin at 1 p.m. as usual.

VERMONTERS, KERSOSENE STOVES PLAYED A PART

The annual Washtenaw County Historical Society tour June 11 focused on Chelsea, a western Washtenaw village of 4,000 population with New England beginnings.

The mingling of old and new was dramatically evident at the start. The first two points of interest were the modern St. Paul's United Church of Christ and, right next to it, the oldest dwelling in Sylvan township.

The new concrete church, built in 1965 at 14600 Old U.S. 12, has no windows in the sanctuary and has a hand-hewn cross over the altar.

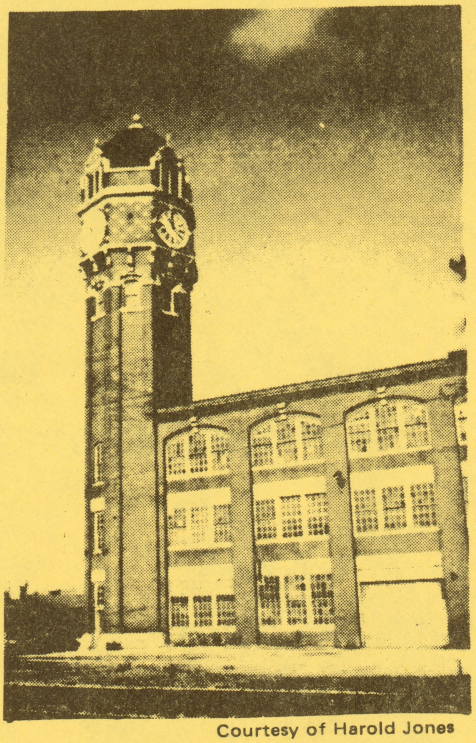
St. Paul's was started by the early German missionary pastor, Friederick Schmid, who founded a number of German churches in the area. Pastor Schmid first preached in Chelsea in 1854. The church, built on Summit Street in 1865, is now used by another congregation.

Across the driveway is the Greek Revival style Hiram Pierce house built in 1831. The Pierce farm and several others stretching south along the present M-52 constituted what was known as "Little Vermont," its residents having come from that state. Many of them are buried in Vermont Cemetery on M-52.

Both St. Paul's and St. Mary's Catholic Church stand on the former Pierce farm.

Next was the 100-plus bed Chelsea Community Hospital at 775 South Main Street, a five building complex, built in 1967 by Dr. Michael Papo on a former peat bog. The hospital includes surgical and intensive care units. Some burn patients from University of Michigan hospital are brought there for convalescence, Tour Guide Kathleen Chapman said.

A warehouse for drying and packaging peat once stood on the site since drained with the aid of the United States Soil Conservation Service. The Austrian style buildings reflect Dr. Papo's European beginnings. He is a native of Czechoslovakia.



Courtesy of Harold Jones

CHELSEA CLOCK TOWER
Landmark is part of former Glazier Stove Company Building.

The tour bus passed the former site of an interurban railway depot, now a Union 76 gas station, on the way to the campus-style high school designed by Minoru Yamasaki and built in 1958. Steel beams project above the roof and there is a park-like courtyard surrounded by buildings. The students don't seem to mind going between buildings in the cold, Mrs. Chapman said.

The high school teaches courses in auto mechanics and carpentry as well as academic courses. The carpentry students were ready to sell a house they had built at the time of the tour.

The brick Italianate-style McKune Library at 221 S. Main St. was built in 1850 on the site of the first dwelling in the village. It was owned by Elisha Congdon who with his brother, James, had founded Chelsea in 1834, a year after they settled there. The village was named after Elisha's native Chelsea, Massachusetts.

By 1860 the house belonged to Timothy McKune who converted it into a hotel, the McKune House. His son Edward continued the business. Edward's widow, Katherine Staffan McKune, willed it to the Chelsea Public Library.

Mrs. Chapman recalled having breakfast at the McKune House on Sunday mornings as a child when she came to town for church. She was impressed by the tablecloths and fancy sweet rolls. She was used to plain bread and butter at home, she said.

Harold Jones, the second tour guide, commented that each of the small third floor windows of the McKune house marked a cubicle for overnight guests. There was once a stable at the side of the hotel, he added.

The library now has a fiction wing given by the Daniels family, a children's room, an upstairs meeting room done over during the bicentennial, and a director's room containing some of the McKune furniture.

Besides 10,000 to 12,000 volumes, the library has Jones's extensive area obituary file of perhaps 40,000 listings. He has compiled it as a result of his interest in genealogy. He is a director of WCHS and active in its Genealogy Section as well as the Chelsea Historical Society to which Mrs. Chapman also belongs.

The stone District Court Building at 122 South Main, formerly the Chelsea Savings Bank, brings to mind a man who was perhaps Chelsea's most widely known citizen, Frank P. Glazier, his downfall as State treasurer and his imprisonment.

The gable stone says the building was erected in 1901 in memory of George P. Glazier, Frank's father. The senior Glazier had organized the bank in 1880 with M. J. Noyes.

Frank had this building built. Jones calls it an unusually fine example of stone construction.

Frank had organized the Glazier Stove Company in 1890 and did very well manufacturing three-burner kerosene stoves for a number of years. He got into politics and became State Treasurer. Some state money was deposited in his bank.

Unfortunately, as other types of cook stoves became available, the demand for kerosene stoves dwindled. Glazier borrowed heavily to keep his one-product business afloat. The state called for its money and he couldn't pay it. He was charged with not taking care of it and sent to Jackson prison.

When ne was released he was quite ill and he died in the house now occupied by Jones on Cavanaugh Lake near Chelsea.

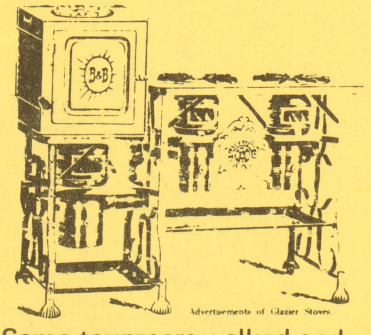
Jones thinks Glazier was overly maligned. He has studied the matter and found no evidence that Glazier ever appropriated any money for himself. Further the savings depositors were all paid back. The checking accounts were lost, however, and there were lawsuits with the bonding companies which held his bonds as state treasurer, he said.

(Glazier also built the seven-story Ann Arbor Trust Company building at Main and Huron Streets in downtown Ann Arbor. The editor has been told that there were those at the time who thought such a tall building would never stand.)

The tour bus passed the United Methodist Church built in 1900 of stone contributed by local farmers. It cost $6,000. The previous building, erected in 1859, burned in 1899.

Both the Methodist and Congregational Churches stand on land donated by Elisha Congdon. The bus stopped at the latter church, an example of Richardson Romanesque architecture. The Congregational Church was organized there in 1849 and the first building burned in 1894. The present building was designed by Sidney Osgood of Grand Rapids and built by John P. Foster of Chelsea for $8,000. It has an unusual corner pulpit arrangement. It also has an "Ann Arbor" piano in the basement, Wystan Stevens discovered.

Jones's father, Carl S., was the minister of the church from 1899 to 1905. Warren Spaulding who set up the Spaulding for Children Foundation to promote adoption of hard-to-place children was a member of the church. He is a descendant of charter members of the church and gave his centennial farm to the foundation whose offices are there.



Advertisements of Glazier Stoves

Some tourgoers walked and some rode in the bus to the Michigan Central Railroad depot that drizzly Saturday afternoon. Two trains a day stop there. The engineer of a passing train, seeing the unaccustomed crowd of "tourists" whistled repeatedly.

Chelsea's first railroad station was called Davidson after a nearby farmer. The second depot burned in 1870. The west side of Main Street suffered a serious fire the same year, the east side in 1876. The present clapboard depot is considered typical of its period.

Across the tracks are the Glazier Stove Company building with its landmark tower and the Welfare Building, a recreation hall for stove company workers, complete with swimming pool in the basement. The Chelsea Standard weekly newspaper is now published in the recreation building. The clock in the tower, once wound by hand but now electrified, keeps perfect time, Jones said.

Glazier's stoves were manufactured under the name "B & B" which stood for "Brightest and Best." A portion of the works burned in 1895 and it was then that these two buildings were constructed in a Dutch style of architecture unusual in the county although there are some examples in Detroit.

Across the street from the depot on the site of the former stockyards is Chelsea Milling Company, home of "Jiffy Mix," dominated by tall white silos or grain elevators. Wheat is unloaded from boxcars and automatically processed into cake or other mixes untouched by human hands until the housewife opens the package, Mrs. Chapman noted.

The tour bus paused briefly in front of the Sylvan town hall, erected in 1882-83. It had a stage and balcony and Mrs. Chapman remembers seeing medicine shows and other entertainment there as a child.

It cost $1,000 for the lot and moving a dwelling off it. Frank Staffan, the contractor, built the hall for $3,000 and D. C. Maroney charged $4.50 to make the concrete sidewalk in front.

Across the street is the oldest bar in town. The saloon owner used to race horses up and down the street.

Nearby is the volunteer fire department hall. Mrs. Chapman said you could set your watch by it—five minutes after the fire whistle blows, the men are on their way.

Frank Glazier donated the land for the Chelsea Methodist Retirement Home on West Middle Street, the next point of interest. He also gave a sum of money toward the first building. The Detroit Conference of the Methodist Church incorporated the home in 1905 and opened it two years later.

The home has its own nursing unit, apartments for married couples and a chapel as well as the main building. It is no longer necessary to be a Methodist to live there. Residents may tend their own flower bed if thev

wish. At least one resident plowed her way to her bird feeder every day last winter, Mrs. Chapman said.

A Kiwanis-furnished bus is available to residents and others who may wish to go shopping, bowling or whatever.

The tour bus then headed to North Lake Methodist Church where a delicious chicken dinner was served.

The North Lake congregation was organized in 1836 and a building erected ten years later. The present white colonial church dates from 1866 when it cost $2,645 to build. In 1925 the nearby Grange Hall at Riker Road was moved and attached to the rear. An educational building, where dinner was served, was built in 1971.

'BIG TOP' TRAVELS OF 1902

HOSTLERS, POLERS, LANTERNMEN ALL PART OF CIRCUS

An unusual behind the scenes look at life with the circus 75 years ago was presented by Stuart Thayer as the second half of his May program.

The show consisted of slides from glass plate negatives found by a friend. They were made by a man who traveled with the Ringling Brothers Circus in the season of 1902.

(Incidentally, Thayer is a circus history buff par excellence. He is president of the national Circus Historical Association and is now working on Volume 2 of *The Annals of the American Circus*. Volume 1 was recently published. He also contributes to *Bandwagon*, a circus history magazine.)

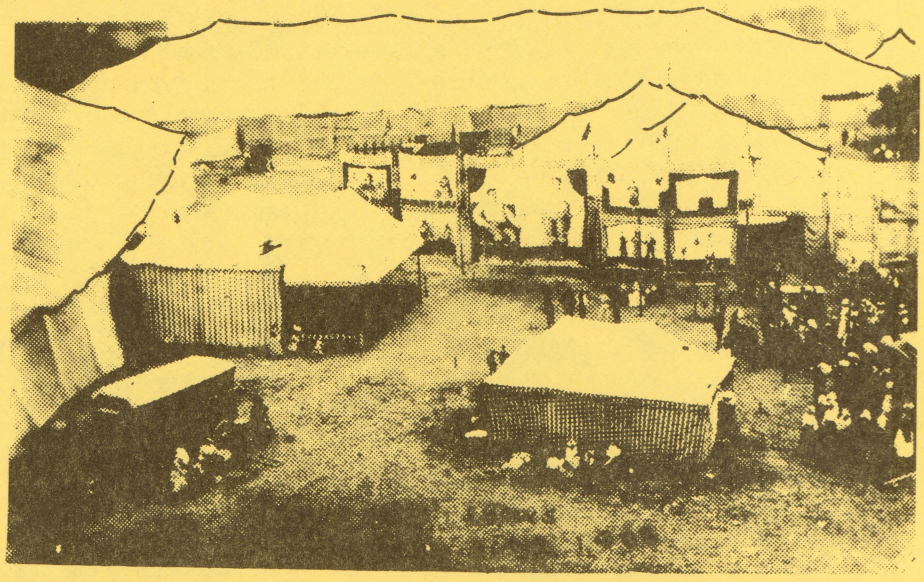
Rather than clowns and trapeze artists, the pictures showed the hostlers, polers, lantern man, pie car, water wagon and other aspects of putting the show on the road.

The boss hostler (man in charge of all the horses) was seen unloading baggage stock from the railroad cars. "Baggage stock" are the non-performing horses while the performing horses were called "ring stock."

Behind the hostler was the lantern man whose job was to place lanterns at all corners of the route from the railroad to the circus lot. At dark he lighted all the lanterns so the teamsters could tell how to get back to the railroad yards after the show was over.

You could tell the temasters in those days from their hats. No matter what kind of hat they bought, they punched the top up to full crown and wore it that way; he noted.

A string of flat cars served as a platform down which the circus cars rolled to be unloaded. Polers on either side of the wagon tongues guided the wagons. Their work got harder as the train got emptier because they had to go further and further with each wagon. If the wagon hit a loose board or something, the tongue sometimes swung and knocked them off the car. Polers got extra pay because of the danger of their work.



Courtesy of Stuart Thayer

'FRONT YARD' AT CIRCUS

Ringling Brothers Circus entrance area, 1902. Note sideshow pictures.

The "pie car" was a "hamburger joint" on the train where employes could get coffee and sandwiches at all hours. It was necessary because they often worked beyond regular mealtimes. The "grab joint" was a lunch stand on the grounds where you "grab" the food with your hands.

One picture was captioned "Stuck on a bad lot, Texarkana, Ark., 1902." Thayer noted that circus wagons had hook rings over each wheel on either side of the wagon. If they got stuck in the mud, they might have as many as four hook teams pulling on the wagon in addition to the original team.

Some wagons were very heavily loaded. "I've read accounts of the very early days of wagon shows where they'd come to bridges and couldn't get across. That wagon would have to go find a bridge it could cross and might be gone from the show three or four days.

"You wonder why the stake drivers didn't hit each other," he continued. They used sledge hammers. Their work was timed so that each one hit a given stake immediately after the last one in a constant tattoo of blows.

The canvas tents were in pieces. They were unrolled at the site and laced together. Most of the lacers and tent repairers were ex-sailors who had gained their expertise on sailing ships, he said.

WCHS ELECTS OFFICERS, EXAMINES STATE OF SOCIETY

Washtenaw County Historical Society re-elected Thomas F. Lacy president for 1977-78 and reviewed its Bicentennial Year activities at the annual meeting June 2.

Also re-elected were Ethelyn Morton, secretary, and Hazel Proctor, treasurer. Prof. Leigh Anderson was elected vice-president to succeed Stuart Thayer who is continuing as curator.

Newly elected to the board of directors are Robert R. Gamble, executive director of the County Parks and Recreation Department; Robert A Reiff, vice president of Ann Arbor Federal Savings; and Wystan Stevens, local historian and resident curator of Kempf House Museum.

The financial report showed total assets of $61,236. That includes donations of $1,000 from the Katherine Groomes family, $10 given in the name of Oscar Eberbach and $2,226 from the Sara Parker trust. Income was $8,981. Operating expenses were $2,110 for general operations and $2,316 for museum and artifacts. Membership was 592 including 22 new memberships and 17 in other states. Many of those represent a couple.

Thayer said eighty-five percent of the artifacts stored at Willow Run have been catalogued.

The Genealogy Section, which has grown from ten to 46 members, began meeting at Washtenaw Community College this spring.

Stevens showed slides of some WCHS activities and other historical items plus a sound-synchronized show on Ann Arbor's Bicentennial observances produced by the city's Bicentennial Commission.

Steven's pictures included Dr. C. Howard Ross with the mirror he carved for Kempf House, repeating the anthemion flower design of the window grilles. He showed an octagon house at 66425 Eight Mile Road, one of only three remaining in the county. The other two are in Ypsilanti and one of them is "sadly altered," he said.

He showed a storage building at Mann's Mill in Bridgewater which encompasses the original St. John's Lutheran Church there, David Braun at Cobblestone Farm with his antique cider press and Herbert Pfabe with a letter from former President Gerald Ford thanking him for a picture of the 1934 U-M football team of which Ford was named the most valuable player. The negative was among former Rentschler negatives he acquired. He presented a print to Ford at the U-M last spring.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Dexter Historical Society— Herb sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, at museum. Also plants, baked goods and rummage. The Society has been growing herbs outside the museum and drying them for the sale. Helen Fairman, a home economist with the county extension service, will talk about herbs at 11 a.m.

The museum will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of September and October and on the second Saturday only through December.

Saline Historical Society— The society will co-sponsor a weekly lecture series on "Exploring Washtenaw History" with Wystan Stevens from September 20 through October 18.

The lectures, open to the public free of charge, will be at 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the high school library. Most will include slides. The first and last lecture will constitute the September and October meetings of SHS. Co-sponsors are the Saline Historic District Commission and Community Schools.

The Society will also have a booth at the Saline Fair September 6-10.

Ypsilanti Historical Society— The United States Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, and the museum will commemorate it with a special exhibit including a scale model of Independence Hall made by Ward Swarts. The exhibit will be on display the weekends of September 9-11 and 16-18. The museum is open those days from 2-4 p.m.

BOOK ON LOCAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS TO BE PUBLISHED

A new book, *Historic Buildings*, is being readied for fall publication by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission.

The 110-page volume will include more than 70 photographs of Ann Arbor buildings selected for architectural merit and a short article about each building and the people associated with it.

It is based largely on the downtown architectural survey and grew out of the city's sesquicentennial historic building marker program. Further details will be given in the next issue.

MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEING ORGANIZED

Elizabeth Grossman is the president of the new Manchester Historical Society. Mary Walton is vice president and Elizabeth Beuerle, secretary-treasurer.

A meeting is scheduled Monday, September 19, for all interested persons. The place and time will be announced later. The process of organization has taken some time but with the official recognition as a non-profit organization in hand, the group is now ready to proceed.

LOCAL WOMEN PUBLISH STATE GENEALOGY GUIDE

Alloa Anderson and Polly Bender of the WCHS Genealogy Section have published a new guide, "Genealogy in Michigan: What, When and Where." The 30-page paperback book is available for $2.50 from Mrs. Bender at 2310 Ayrshire, Ann Arbor. Her phone is 668-6925.

So far as they know there is no other such guide to sources of information on family history in the state.

LOVE A MYSTERY? COME HEAR ABOUT BERMUDA TRIANGLE

The mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle will be explored at the first fall meeting of WCHS at 8 p.m. Thursday, September 22, 1977 at Liberty Hall in Ann Arbor Federal Savings and Loan, Liberty at Division Streets, Ann Arbor.

Robert L. McNamee, retired consulting engineer of the firm of McNamee, Porter and Seeley, will speak. His nephew, a Naval officer, disappeared four years ago in one of the unexplained incidents in that area of ocean. Since that time, McNamee has made a study of the subject.

Losses have been occurring in the area for more than 100 years, he said. U.S. planes and ships now cruise the area. No recent losses have been reported, he said.

A FORD IN YOUR FUTURE— AT OCTOBER WCHS MEETING

A retired Presbyterian minister who knew Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company personally, will share his reminiscences of the elder Ford at the October WCHS meeting. He is Dr. Frank Fitt who now resides in Ann Arbor. The meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, October 27.

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MIGRATIONS TO AND FROM MICHIGAN THEME OF STATE GENEALOGY SEMINAR AT EMU CENTER SEPTEMBER 9-11

"Migrations To and From Michigan" will be the theme of a major genealogical seminar to be held September 9 to 11 at Eastern Michigan University's Hoyt Conference Center on Huron River Drive.

The WCHS Genealogy Section will be host to the conference sponsored jointly by the Michigan Genealogical Council and the U-M Extension Service.

Concurrent discussion sessions and workshops are planned Saturday. They will be repeated Sunday to enable participants to go to some they missed on Saturday.

Morning sessions will be on "Tracking and Backtracking Ancestors Who Came Through and From Canada" and on migrations between Michigan and Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. The respective speakers are Marion C. Keefer of Toronto, Ontario, of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and Frank D. Gatton, librarian and archivist of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Workshops will be on "How To Reproduce Old Photographs," "Publishing Format and Methods," "Use of Tape Recorders in Genealogy," "Letters of Inquiry: How to Write and To Whom," "Dating of Old Photographs," "Preservation of Materials," and "Record Forms: Uses and Kinds Available."

While registration by September 1 was recommended, all are welcome although some workshops may be filled. The seminar fee is $19 per person. The Saturday buffet dinner is $6.50. Otherwise cafeteria meals and rooms are available at the Hoyt Center. Further information is available from the U-M Extension Service, telephone (313) 764-5304.

ANNUAL GREEN PLANT SALE SEPTEMBER 6-7 PLANTS, HELP NEEDED

Don't forget the annual green plant sale Tuesday and Wednesday, September 6 and 7, to raise money for the museum. It will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. under the portico at Ann Arbor Federal Savings & Loan, Liberty at Divsion Streets.

Members are asked to donate plants (hopefully you've been growing a few extras this summer) but slips are fine, too, according to Lois Foyle, chairperson. Although the time may be short when you read this, she would appreciate a call at 663-8159 if you can help sell. She also is looking for someone to pick up donations from several local florists just before sale time.

Donations of suitable containers for plants are also welcome. An attempt was being made to make some macrame hangers for the sale too.

Washtenaw Historical Society Meeting
THURSDAY
8:00 P.M.
LIBERTY HALL
ANN ARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS
LIBERTY AT DIVISION
SEPT. 22, 1977

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